Hepatitis-B and AIDS

2022. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hepatitis-B is as serious and deadly disease as AIDS, but still it is not getting attention and priority by Government as is given to AIDS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, hepatitis B infection is several times more infectious than AIDS.

Hepatitis B spreads through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injection etc. and also from mother to child. Hepatitis B is preventable by ensuring precautionary measures. The Government has launched a pilot project of immunization of Hepatitis B free of cost for children below one year only. Hepatitis B vaccination has commenced and is continuing in 15 cities since 2002-03 and in 32 districts and Andaman and Nicobar Island since 2003-04.

While the general health care delivery system in the country is well equipped to handle various diseases, Hepatitis B is effectively tackled through preventive measures including vaccination. The following measures have been taken to prevent infection of Hepatitis B:—

- Central Government Hospitals personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in blood banks.
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated.
- Health awareness campaigns regarding dangers of using non-sterile syringes and needless under National AIDS Control Programme are held.

- Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for sue of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

Vaccine for Hepatitis B is available in the country at affordable prices.

HIV infections in the country

2023. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey with regard to HIV infections in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the results thereof alongwith the name of the States with high prevalence, moderate prevalence and low prevalence, State-wise;

(c) the physical infrastructure providing services set up in various States under National AIDS Control Programme (NACO).

(d) the number of blood banks modernized by NACO in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh to ensure safe blood donation; and

(e) the number of AIDS patients in Andhra Pradesh as on 31st December, 2005, male, female, children and eunuch-wise, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) infections in the country is determined by annual sentinel surveillance. The estimated number of infections during the last two years is 51.06 lakhs for 2003 and 51.34 lakhs for 2004. The state-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Under the National AIDS Control Programme, the State-wise infrastructure including blood banks established is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(e) A total of 12,205 AIDS cases have been reported to NACO during last three years. Out of this 7,386 are males, 4,517 are females and 302 are children.